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To: Michigan House Committee on Commerce

From: Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Contact: Neil Mac Vicar, Vice President
MHA Unemployment Compensation Program
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Date: September 10, 2013

Re: Unemployment Compensation Bills — House Bills 4949-4954

I am writing on behalf of the hospitals and other health care employers represented by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's Unemployment Compensation Program [MHA-UCP]. The MHA-UCP currently represents over 300 healthcare employers throughout Michigan.¹

The House Committee on Commerce is currently considering a group of bills introduced on September 4, 2013 as House Bills 4949-4954. The MHA-UCP's members support this Committee's consideration and passage of the bills.

In particular, the MHA-UCP strongly supports HB 4949 as it will protect employers against unemployment fraud and will help preserve the assets of Michigan's unemployment trust fund. It is our understanding that an amendment to HB 4949 is forthcoming which will allow employers to protect themselves against "successive" unemployment claims that are established in whole or in part on prior acts of unemployment fraud. It is likely that the MHA-UCP will also strongly support the forthcoming amendment.

The MHA-UCP also strongly supports HB 4952 which disqualifies a claimant from unemployment benefits after a positive pre-employment drug test or refusing to take a pre-employment drug test. HB 4952 also helps preserve the assets of the Michigan unemployment trust and helps Michigan employers ensure that they hire qualified candidates and applicants.

In summary, the MHA-UCP supports the package of unemployment compensation bills listed as House Bills 4949-4954. We will gladly answer any questions and provide additional information as necessary.

¹ The healthcare employers represented by the MHA-UCP include hospitals, healthcare systems, nursing care facilities, rehabilitation centers, hospice care organizations, home health care groups, physician clinics, and healthcare insurers.